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for the sacredness of contracts apparently precludes all suspicion that big business may have resorted to questionable methods to gain concessions in Mexico just as it has done elsewhere, and prevents recognition of the possible parallel between this phase of the Mexican problem and the difficulties which have confronted the United States in the last thirty years. In fact the author seems not to question the right of the United States to determine at what point the proposed Mexican taxes upon oil become confiscatory (pages 263-265).

Yet Mr. Jones makes it plain that he does not favor the annexation of Mexico. He is positive in his assertion that the United States does not "want" Mexico. He asserts that what the government and the people of the United States do want is order in Mexico, and he hints that in order to bring this about vigorous action on the part of the United States may be necessary. Would this mean intervention? The reader is left in doubt as to this point. If intervention should be resorted to it ought to be solely as a means to the end of helping Mexico to help herself. The author is convinced that an independent Mexico will prove far more satisfactory than permanent occupation for all parties concerned, and particularly for the United States. "A friendly, strong, and independent Mexico will bring greater economic advantages than the annexation that certain classes of Mexicans fear and some citizens of the United States desire," while there can be little doubt that a "friendly neighbor is a better bulwark than a disaffected province."

It may be noted, in conclusion, that the technical equipment of the book is good. The select bibliography will prove very helpful to students in this field; the footnotes, although not profuse, are fairly satisfactory; and there is included in the work a suggestive map of the industries and resources of Mexico.

J. FRED RIPPY

Early records of Gilpin county, Colorado, 1859-1861. By Thomas Maitland Marshall. [The University of Colorado, historical collections, volume 2, mining series, volume 1] (Boulder, 1920. xvi, 313 p.)

The documents here printed include papers illustrating the early days (1859-1861) in seventeen mining districts lying within the present boundaries of Gilpin county. A rare map of the county, dated 1866, which has been copied for the frontispiece, indicates the relative positions of the several districts.

"The documents of each district are arranged in chronological order, and the districts follow the order of their organization." On this principle are placed first the papers relating to Gregory district, which was first in time and was also a kind of exemplar of methods of local government among mining camps. There is a table of the documents in the

Gilpin county court house, and a good index. This collection throws a flood of light upon the local government of mining camps, and changes in miners' law which are dictated by changing conditions, and the processes by which mining communities grow through expansion, and through the coalescence of several small units into a single larger unit. There is much sameness in the range of material illustrating the several communities; yet the diversity is sufficient to justify some repetition, for we here see the American political genius functioning creatively on the local plane.

Mr. Marshall's introduction, which presents the historical background of the Rocky mountain gold rush, is admirable, but brief. The reader ought to supplement it by reading also Marshall's "The miners' laws of Colorado" in the *American historical review*, 25: 426-439, where he discusses the bearings of the mass of documents he unearthed, of which this book contains only a part. One would welcome the above article as an introduction to the book. The volume is a distinct contribution to our knowledge of the self-governing mining type of community.

JOSEPH SCHAFER

History of Alabama and dictionary of Alabama biography. By Thomas McAdory Owen, LL. D. In four volumes. (Chicago: The S. J. Clark publishing company, 1921. Volumes 1 and 2, 1421 p., volumes 3 and 4, 1866 p. \$28.00)

In 1906 the work on which Dr. Owen had been engaged for years and which was approaching a point where it would become the *History of Alabama* was wiped out by fire, and along with it disappeared books, letters, and other invaluable material which he had been gathering for a quarter of a century. Once more he set himself to the task, and at the time of his death in 1920 he had nearly ready for the press the manuscript which finally came out as the *History of Alabama and dictionary of Alabama biography*. The finishing touches upon the material, as well as the writing of some of the topics, were done under the supervision of Mrs. Owen with the assistance of the staff of the Alabama department of archives and history, a department of which Dr. Owen had been the founder and director. Thus, while the four volumes fittingly go out under the name of Dr. Owen, they do not appear as having received his ultimate and critical scrutiny.

The first two volumes of the work are general, the last two biographical. All four have their contents arranged in encyclopedic form. Strictly speaking, a title such as "The cyclopedia of Alabama history and biography" would much better indicate the scope and content of the work, since of purely narrative history of the state there is little. For